

Wild Pig

Wild Pig Tags

Resident and nonresident hunters, 12 years of age and older, with a 2006/2007 California hunting license, may purchase wild pig hunting tags from designated license agents and some DFG offices. There is no limit on the number of wild pig tags one person may purchase, however, tags are nonrefundable and cannot be transferred from one person to another.



Twelve-year-old Kara Chittim took this wild pig near Cottonwood in Shasta County.

Wild Pig Hunting Season

Tags are valid throughout the 2006/2007 license year (July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007). There is no bag or possession limit for wild pig.

2005 Wild Pig Harvest

The 2004/2005 wild pig hunting season ran July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005 with no bag or possession limit. A total of 46,593 wild pig tags were sold. Hunters voluntarily returned 4,106 (8.8%) of the wild pig license tag. Data from those tag returns is shown in the table on the right. Of the 4,106 pigs reported taken, 2,605 (63.4%) were harvested from the DFG's Central Coast region. This region has consistently reported the highest wild pig harvest in the state.

The success rates for particular hunting methods are as follows: hunters using rifles accounted for the largest

proportion of the harvest again this year with 90% (3,694) of the take. Archery hunters took 219 pigs, which accounted for 5.3% of the harvest. All other hunting methods combined accounted for only 4.7% (193) of the take.

Of the total reported pigs taken, 2,192 (53.4%) were males and 1,863 (45.4%) were females. Similar to years past, most pigs (93.1%) were taken on private lands. The remaining 6.9% were taken on public lands such as federal- and state-managed lands as well as military bases. In 2005 7.6% (313) of pig hunters used trailing hounds and 22% (905) hunted within their county of residence.

Reported Wild Pig Take 2000-2005

County	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05
Northern California and North Coast Region					
Humboldt	9	37	57	56	29
Modoc	0	4	3	0	0
Shasta	62	84	80	63	55
Siskiyou	4	7	7	3	8
Tehama	450	495	312	343	215
Trinity	34	30	52	66	65
Totals	559	657	511	531	372
Statewide %	8.7	8.5	8.8	8.8	9.1
Sacramento Valley and Central Sierra Region					
Amador	0	0	1	3	0
Butte	2	1	2	2	0
Calaveras	11	2	2	6	5
Colusa	105	158	100	85	66
El Dorado	2	0	0	0	0
Glenn	114	172	153	128	53
Nevada	15	13	37	35	12
Placer	10	2	6	13	7
Sacramento	0	0	0	0	0
San Joaquin	26	19	26	8	8
Solano	49	35	11	9	16
Sutter	46	92	63	43	17
Yolo	14	34	28	40	10
Yuba	9	4	1	1	0
Totals	403	532	430	373	194
Statewide %	6.3	6.8	7.4	6.2	4.7
Central Coast Region					
Alameda	34	30	23	16	15
Contra Costa	13	13	9	9	5
Lake	17	53	114	103	175
Mendocino	205	267	290	305	213
Monterey	1,893	1,944	1,203	1,371	1,167
Napa	16	8	5	5	16
San Benito	480	703	362	420	283
San Luis Obispo	513	523	348	424	297
San Mateo	24	12	3	0	1
Santa Clara	375	461	259	235	199
Santa Cruz	92	114	57	45	20
Sonoma	280	326	400	262	214
Totals	3,942	4,454	3,073	3,195	2,605
Statewide %	61.5	57.3	52.9	53.1	63.4
San Joaquin Valley and Southern Sierra Region					
Fresno	190	276	183	189	98
Kern	570	863	987	951	446
Kings	30	15	16	26	17
Madera	74	68	48	52	29
Mariposa	77	91	59	85	47
Merced	79	95	75	114	32
Stanislaus	122	106	68	31	23
Tulare	93	146	79	125	62
Tuolumne	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	1,235	1,660	1,515	1,573	755
Statewide %	19.2	21.4	26.1	26.2	18.4
South Coast Region					
Los Angeles	22	4	2	11	1
San Diego	0	0	0	0	0
Santa Barbara	231	430	247	301	162
Ventura	6	7	9	17	10
Totals	259	441	258	329	173
Statewide %	4.0	5.7	4.5	5.5	4.2
Eastern Sierra and Inland Deserts Region					
Riverside	5	6	9	5	1
San Bernardino	3	4	0	1	0
Unknown	20	16	4	7	6
Totals	28	26	13	13	7
Statewide %	0.3	0.33	0.2	0.2	0.2
Total	6,418	7,770	5,800	6,014	4,106

Bear Hunting

Application Requirements

To hunt bear in California, all residents and nonresidents must be age 12 or older and have **both** a valid hunting license and a bear tag.

Resident bear tag applications are sold at license agents and some DFG offices. Nonresident bear tag applications are available from DFG offices only. Tags are issued in person or by mail at DFG offices.

Bear Tag Refund Policy

You may request a refund for an unused bear tag application. The deadline for requesting a refund is January 31, 2007. Please allow 12-16 weeks for processing your refund.

Bear Hunting Season

Archery bear season opens **August 19, 2006** and runs through **September 10, 2006**. The general season for black bears opens with the general deer hunting seasons in deer zones A, B, C, D, X8, X9A, X9B, X10 and X12, and extends through **December 31, 2006**. In the remaining X zones, the season opens **October 7, 2006** and extends through **December 31, 2006**. When hunters report harvesting 1,700 bears, regulations require the DFG to close the season early.

Bag and Possession Limit

One adult bear per season. Cubs and female accompanied by cubs may not be taken. (Cubs are defined as bears less than one year of age or bears weighing less than 50 pounds.)

This black bear was taken in Lassen County by Mark Sanchez of Ventura, California.

Regulations

Any bear hunter who utilizes the services of a guide must verify that the guide has valid guide's license and must write the guide's license number on the bear tag in the space provided.

Any bear hunter who utilizes dogs to take bear must so indicate on the bear tag in the space provided.

Only DFG employees may validate bear tags. Bear tags must be validated before the bear can be transported except for the purpose of taking it directly to the nearest person authorized to validate the tag.

Every licensed bear hunter who takes a bear must immediately return the validated report card portion of the bear tag. The tag may be presented to a DFG office/officer or returned via mail.

Every licensed bear hunter who is unsuccessful in taking bear must return the report card portion of the bear tag by February 1 of the current license year. The tag may be presented to a DFG office/officer or returned via mail.

Any person who takes a bear shall present the skull (even if damaged) to a DFG office/officer within 10 days of taking the bear. The skull shall become property of the DFG. That portion of the skull not needed for scientific purposes will be returned.

It is illegal to feed or bait bears for the

purpose of hunting them. It is illegal to hunt bear over bait or within a 400 yard radius of a garbage dump or bait.

It is illegal to sell bear parts in California. However, you have the right to retain any and all parts of the bear you take, except the skull which becomes the property of the DFG.

The use of dogs is prohibited during the archery season for bear.

It is illegal to use more than one dog per licensed hunter for bear hunting in areas when the general deer season is open. After the close of the general deer season an unlimited number of dogs may be used.

You cannot pursue bears with dogs unless you have a valid, unused bear tag in your possession. However, a hunter who does not have a bear tag may be in the field with a hunter who does have a valid bear tag in possession. The hunter possessing the tag may use your dogs. If you do not have a valid, unused, bear tag you may not possess a firearm, archery gear, crossbow, or other weapon capable of killing or capturing a bear while accompanying a hunter in the act of taking a bear.

The use of dog retrieval collars equipped with functioning treeing switches is prohibited. Treeing switches change transmitted signals from the radio collar when a dog raises its head to a treed animal.



2005 Bear Harvest

The 2005 black bear hunting season closed according to the regulations on December 25, 2005. The recent regulation change that increased the tag quota from 1,500 to 1,700 bears harvested has made this the fifth time in eleven years that the season has run to its designated closure date rather than closing when the DFG has received its tag quota. A total of 23,160 bear tags were sold in 2005, including 22,897 resident and 263 non-resident tags. Non-resident tag sales increased in 2005 but still comprise about one percent of tag sales. A total of 1,418 black bears were reported taken this year. Overall hunter success was 6.1%, down about 2 points from 2004.

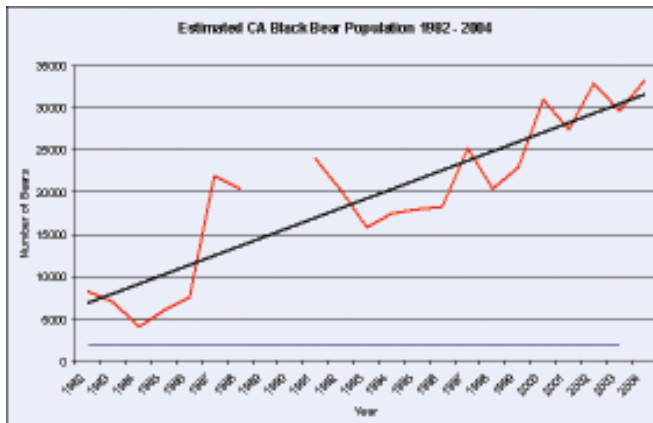
Once again, success rates for the different hunting methods varied only marginally in 2005 compared to previous years. Hunters with trailing hounds took 742 bears (52.3%), which is down just slightly from 2004 but still representing half the kills. Hunters took 476 bears (33.6%) while they were deer hunting, a 4% increase from last year. Archery hunters accounted for only 99 kills, up about one percent from last year, while the number of hunters using guides increased slightly to 6.4% (91 kills).

Ninety-two percent of successful hunters and 3.0% of unsuccessful bear hunters indicated the number of days they spent hunting on their report cards. Successful hunters spent an average of 3.8 days and unsuccessful hunters spent an average of 23.3 days hunting bear. Successful hunters spent less time hunting than last year and unsuccessful hunters tripled their time in the field. A total of 274 (17.4%) successful bear hunters said they had taken bears on private land, down 3% from last year.

Again in 2005 the general bear season and deer season overlapped in the A, B, C, D, and some of the X zones. Zones X1 through X7b opened on October 1st. During the general deer season hunters were limited to one dog per hunter. Regulation changes in 2002 continue to be the primary factor affecting tag sales, season closure, and changes in the proportions of bear take by hunting method.

Ten-year Bear Take Data

County	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Alpine	14	10	10	26	19	5	5	8	9	11
Amador	4	2	1	3	0	0	0	1	2	5
Butte	32	63	28	48	38	39	51	45	30	47
Calaveras	25	26	13	12	19	17	19	20	36	9
Colusa	1	5	6	2	0	2	2	1	4	8
Del Norte	44	35	51	53	32	18	28	22	30	18
El Dorado	23	44	44	29	61	61	61	61	63	47
Fresno	75	85	62	70	94	78	78	86	99	59
Glenn	23	11	22	27	33	18	25	27	31	33
Humboldt	102	119	142	164	130	110	147	113	154	98
Inyo	4	2	1	3	5	2	5	2	2	1
Kern	40	32	34	32	79	85	76	68	59	18
Lake	16	16	16	7	8	27	11	5	10	9
Lassen	11	7	22	30	19	13	8	26	18	18
Los Angeles	9	5	6	13	13	16	2	9	13	18
Madera	48	67	50	41	41	46	53	43	47	40
Mariposa	33	22	15	30	20	35	27	24	34	24
Mendocino	94	86	102	91	93	122	78	74	85	56
Merced	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Modoc	5	0	0	6	6	3	4	3	0	2
Mono	6	7	6	4	10	10	9	2	11	12
Napa	2	0	0	0	2	0	2	4	1	2
Nevada	7	12	9	15	20	17	14	15	19	18
Placer	26	50	36	32	38	37	34	38	49	30
Plumas	77	98	96	71	49	82	75	61	79	85
Riverside	3	6	2	2	4	2	5	3	2	0
San Bernardino	19	18	17	17	14	23	25	30	14	11
San Joaquin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Santa Barbara	19	23	20	18	14	16	12	8	24	9
Shasta	219	148	185	208	179	104	178	142	199	167
Sierra	16	32	12	33	31	34	28	16	19	33
Siskiyou	196	156	205	260	181	104	199	190	209	121
Sonoma	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0
Stanislaus	0	2	5	4	6	1	2	3	0	2
Tehama	71	76	75	86	65	79	81	67	67	63
Trinity	261	184	186	242	190	198	179	201	224	185
Tulare	84	107	103	75	133	130	138	158	88	62
Tuolumne	68	84	60	46	103	66	60	66	73	57
Ventura	29	22	24	20	27	21	26	14	24	16
Yolo	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Yuba	2	14	6	13	17	8	17	12	19	20
Unknown	4	0	3	2	3	3	1	0	1	4
Total Harvest	1,714	1,677	1,676	1,836	1,796	1,633	1,768	1,670	1,848	1,418
Total Tags Sold	15,000	15,264	18,475	18,321	20,620	19,796	22,157	22,331	21,000	23,160



California's 2006 estimated statewide black bear population is between 30,000 and 35,000—the highest ever recorded. This is partly due to the bears' natural expansion into historic grizzly bear range.